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Summary record of the 24th meeting
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Chairman: Mr. Kyaw Tint Swe ..... (Myanmar)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

Expression of condolences

1. **The Chairman** extended his profound condolences to the Palestinian people in connection with the death of the head of the Palestinian Authority, Yasser Arafat.

Agenda item 75: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (*continued*) (A/59/13; A/59/151; A/59/260; A/59/279; A/59/442; A/C.4/59/L.10–L.13)

2. **Mr. Sinaga** (Indonesia) introduced the draft resolutions entitled "Assistance to Palestine refugees" (A/C.4/59/L.10), "Persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities" (A/C.4/59/L.11), "Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East" (A/C.4/59/L.12), and "Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues" (A/C.4/59/L.13). Briefly acquainting those present with the contents of the drafts, he noted that their texts had been discussed widely, particularly with the European Union, and he expressed the hope that they would be adopted without a vote, which would contribute considerably to settling the problems of the Near East. The speaker pointed out that Mali, Namibia, and Senegal had joined as co-sponsors of all the draft resolutions.

Agenda item 76: Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (*continued*) (A/59/338; A/59/339; A/59/343; A/59/344; A/59/345; A/59/381; and A/C.4/59/L.14–L.18)

3. **Mr. López Clemente** (Cuba) introduced the draft resolutions entitled "Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories" (A/C.4/59/L.14), "Applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the other occupied territories" (A/C.4/59/L.15), "Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan" (A/C.4/59/L.16), "Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem" (A/C.4/59/L.17), and "The occupied Syrian Golan" (A/C.4/59/L.18). He focused on the particulars of the drafts introduced and said that Namibia and Senegal had joined as co-sponsors of the draft resolutions and that Mali had become a co-sponsor of draft resolutions L.14–L.17.

4. The Cuban delegation urged all delegations to vote for the draft resolutions and thereby show strong support for the just cause of the Palestinian people. That would contribute, specifically, to ensuring strict compliance with Security Council resolutions, which are binding and not optional, as some would have it.

5. **Mr. van Loosdrecht** (the Netherlands), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that he understood the desire of the preceding speakers for unanimous adoption of the draft resolutions introduced. For its part, the European Union was negotiating in good faith with the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine, striving to produce texts that the mission's members could support. That work had been slowed by the force majeure associated with the untimely death of Yasser Arafat, but was moving forward steadily, although it was too early to speak of results, and he did not want to abuse the trust of the parties by speaking of the position they were currently taking.

6. At the same time, in the interests of transparency, the European Union suggested that the concerned delegations and leaders of regional groups ask the country serving in the capacity of the presidency of the European Union for more detailed briefings on the status of the consideration of those draft resolutions. Based on that, he suggested deferring actions on the draft resolutions introduced.

7. **Ms. Naser** (Observer for Palestine), expressing her appreciation for the condolences extended in connection with the death of Yasser Arafat and for the support and solidarity shown at a time so sorrowful for the people of Palestine, joined the representative of the Netherlands in asking that actions on the draft resolutions introduced be deferred in the interests of as broad agreement and support of those drafts as possible and in the hope that such agreement and support would be achieved.

8. **The Chairman**, noting the need to work efficiently and the earlier agreed-upon date for the completion of the work of the Committee in that

session, said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee members agreed to defer actions on the draft resolutions submitted under the two items under consideration until 24 November.

9. *The proposal was adopted.*

Provisional programme of work of the Fourth Committee for the sixtieth session

10. **The Chairman** said that, pursuant to the 1 July 2004 General Assembly resolution 58/316, the provisional programme of work for the next session (A/C.4/59/CRP.1) had been distributed among the Committee members. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee members were willing to approve that provisional programme.

11. *The proposal was adopted.*

The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.